Invoking POTA by States

1545. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States that have adopted POTA;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the States have decided not to invoke POTA;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons behind such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (3HRI CHE NNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) No communication from any of the State Government has been received refusing to implement the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002.

Use of POTA by States

1546. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have started using 'POTA' provisions recently;

(b) if so, the details of 'POTA' used by States Governments as such;

(c) whether Government have issued any guidelines for the use of 'POTA' by State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof if not, whether Government propose to frame/issue any guidelines in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Law and Order is a State subject and accordingly, State Governments are competent to invoke provisions of Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA) keeping in view the public order and internal security conditions prevailing over there. The information regarding use of POTA by the State Government is not centrally maintained by this Ministry.

(c) and (d) All the State Governments/UT Administrations have been advised to install a mechanism to oversee the implementation of the Act

and sensitize the police officers and others concerned with its implementation on the need to ensure its fair and transparent operation.

Terrorist activities inTripura

1547. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of Tripura had categorically pointed out in March, 2002 that the extremists of the North-Eastern States including Tripura have, been using their camps in Bangladesh to launch attacks in these States and flee away;

(b) what steps Government have taken till now to hold talks with Bangladesh and to compel that country to demolish these hide-outs; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to take to stop cross-border terrorism along Tripura-Bangladesh border and also inside the State of Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Government of India is aware of the reports that elements inimical to India's interests are misusing the territory of Bangladesh for their anti-India activities. The Government of India has been regularly taking up these security-related issues with Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. The subject has been addressed at various levels through the institutional frame-work of bilateral dialogue mechanisms such as the Joint Working Group, Home Secretary-level talks, Foreign Secretary-level talks and Director General-level talks between BSF and Bangladesh Rifles. The Bangladesh Government has assured that it will not allow undesirable elements to use its territory for activities prejudicial to the security interests of India.

Other measures taken by the government to curb the problem of infiltration into India *inter-alia* include, construction of border roads, border fencing, raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps betweei Border Outposts, Intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipment including night vision devices, etc.